T.B. Prevention and Control

1096. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that TB cases are rising in the country;

(b) whether there is any proposal to open TB Sanatoria for treatment of TB patients;

(c) what is the total expenditure on TB prevention and control in 1997-98;

(d) whether any new initiatives would be taken to fight the spread of TB; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) The trend of TB Cases in the Country reported under the Programme over last several years has been more or less static.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The total expenditure incurred on TB Control during 1997-98 was Rs. 32.05 crore.

(d) and (e) A Revised Strategy for effective control of TB has been adopted and pilot tested in the different parts of the Country with encouraging success.

The Objective of the Revised Strategy is to achieve over 85% Cure Rate as against existing completion rate of about 30%. Apart from improved Programme Management, this revised strategy involve Directly Observed Treatment (DOTs) and improved Microscopy for Diagnosis. With World Bank Assistance, this strategy will be implemented in 102 Districts of the Country over the next 3 years.

Enforcement of Guidelines for Waste Disposal

1097. SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:
SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a survey conducted by "Srishti" a Non-Governmental Organisation on waste disposal by various hospitals in the capital, has revealed that guidelines set by the Central Pollution Control Board were not being satisfactorily met;

(b) if so, the details of the findings; and

(c) the steps being taken to make the hospital authorities to strictly follow the guidelines set by the CPC Board in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) and (b) A Survey was conducted by "Srishti", a Non-Governmental Organisation, between the last week of February and the first week of March, 1998 of 8 Hospitals and one major Blood Bank. The main findings of the Servey are:—

1. Of the Hospitals with Incinerators, only 14.2% of the Incinerators were operating at temperatures prescribed by Central Pollution Control Board.
2. Dr. R.M.L. Hospital was the only Hospital that had a shredder installed for plastic waste.
3. A lot of Infectious Waste was being directed towards bins even in Hospitals with Incinerators.
4. Plastic Material from the Hospitals was being collected for recycling.
5. Many Incinerator Operators and Waster Collectors had no idea of the hazards of waste, nor were they given any protective gear.